

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 18-22 and amend claims 1-17 and 23-30 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to credential information, the method comprising:

requesting, by a delegate with a delegation from a delegator, a service from a relying party;

determining a credential requirement based on a type of the service requested;

requesting, by the relying party based on the ~~service requested~~ determined credential requirement and the delegation, credential information from a delegate credential service provider;

sending, by the delegate credential service provider, the credential information to the relying party;

generating, by the relying party, a service response according to the credential information received from the delegate credential service provider; and  
sending the service response to the delegate.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said credential information contains credential information ~~about~~ for the delegator.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein said requesting delegated credential includes ~~comprises~~:

generating a credential information request based on the service requested and the delegation;

sending the credential information request to the delegate for an approval that authorizes the credential information request;

receiving the approval from the delegate; and  
sending the approved delegated credential request to the delegate credential service provider.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein:

sending the credential information request to the delegate includes sending a request for information related to an appropriate delegation; and

receiving the approval from the delegate includes receiving the information related to an appropriate delegation.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said sending the credential information includes ~~comprises~~:

verifying the delegation registered by the delegate and delegator;

retrieving credential information associated with the delegation; and

forwarding the retrieved credential information to the relying party.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further including ~~comprising~~:  
subscribing, by the delegate and the delegator, a digital credential service from a credential service provider.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further including ~~comprising~~  
registering, by the delegator, the conditions under which pieces of the credential information can be released to relying parties.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying credential information by a relying party,  
the method comprising:

receiving, from a delegate, a request for a service;

determining a credential requirement based on a type of the service requested;

sending a credential information request based on the determined credential requirement

to a delegate credential service provider;

receiving requested credential information from the delegate credential service provider;

verifying the credential information;

generating a service response based on the results from the verifying and the request for the service; and

sending the service response to the delegate.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said sending the credential information request includes ~~comprises~~:

~~determining the credential information required for the services requested;~~

~~generating the credential information request based on the credential required;~~

sending the credential information request to the delegate to obtain an approval;

receiving the approval from the delegate; and

sending the credential information request to the delegate credential service provider.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8, further ~~comprising~~ including:

determining, using the credential required, an appropriate delegation

~~based on which the credential information request is constructed.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said determining the appropriate delegation includes one of:

obtaining the appropriate delegation specified in the request for service sent by the delegate;

selecting the appropriate delegation by the delegate upon receiving the credential information request; ~~[[and]]~~ or

verifying the appropriate delegation by the delegate credential service provider.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling access to credential information by a delegate credential service provider, the method comprising:

receiving a service request;

determining the service type based on the service request;

determining a credential requirement based on the service type of the service request;

registering, if the service type is for subscribing a digital credential service, a user's credential information for requested digital credential service based on the determined credential requirement;

registering, if the service type is for delegation service, a delegation between a delegator and a delegate, the delegation including delegation terms;

changing, if the service type is for updating an existing delegation, the terms of an existing delegation; and

providing, if the service request is a credential information request from a relying party for credential information required for a service requested by a delegate, credential information.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said changing the terms of a delegation includes ~~comprises~~:

receiving, from a user, revised delegation terms; and

updating the terms of the existing delegation using the revised delegation terms.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein said providing delegated credential includes ~~comprises~~:

retrieving the requested delegated credential; and

sending the retrieved delegated credential to the relying party.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

registering by the delegator the conditions under which ~~pieces~~ a portion of the credential information can be released to relying parties; and

determining, prior to the retrieving, a delegation, between the delegate, who requests the service from the relying party, and a delegator, wherein the digital credential information of the delegator corresponds to the delegated credential required for the service requested by the delegate.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for verifying credential information by a relying party, comprising:

a service request processing mechanism for processing a service request for a service from a user;

a credential determiner for determining, prior to obtaining credential information, a credential requirement based on a type of the service requested by the user;

a credential information request mechanism for obtaining ~~required~~ credential information based on the determined credential requirement ~~that is necessary for the service~~ from a delegation credential service provider; and

a service response generation mechanism for generating a service response based on the service request and the required credential information.

17. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 16, further ~~comprising~~ including:

~~a credential determiner for determining, prior to obtaining credential information, required credential information necessary for the service requested by the user; and~~

a credential verification mechanism for verifying the required credential information obtained from the delegation credential service provider before the service response is generated.

18. (Canceled)
19. (Canceled)
20. (Canceled)
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Currently Amended) A machine-accessible medium having encoded thereon, program code for verifying credential information by a relying party, the program code including instructions which when executed cause ~~encoded with data related to a relying party, the data, when accessed, causing:~~

receiving, from a delegate, a request for a service;

determining a credential requirement based on a type of the service requested;

sending a credential information request to a delegate credential service provider based on the determined credential requirement;

receiving the requested credential information from the delegate credential service provider;

verifying the credential information;

generating a service response based on the results from the verifying and the request for the service; and

sending the service response to the delegate.

24. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 23, wherein said sending the credential information request includes ~~comprises:~~

~~determining the credential required for the services requested;~~

~~generating the credential information request based on the credential required;~~

sending the credential information request to the delegate to obtain an approval;  
receiving the approval from the delegate; and  
sending the credential information request to the delegate credential service provider.

25. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 24, ~~the data, when accessed,~~  
~~further causing~~ including program code having instructions which when executed, further cause:

determining, using the determined credential requirement ~~required~~, an appropriate  
delegation based on which the credential information request is constructed.

26. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 25, wherein the determining the  
appropriate delegation includes one of:

obtaining the appropriate delegation specified in the request for service sent by the  
delegate;

selecting the appropriate delegation by the delegate upon receiving the credential  
information request for approval; [[and]] or

verifying the appropriate delegation by the delegate credential service provider.

27. (Currently Amended) A machine-accessible medium having encoded thereon, program  
code for controlling access to credential information by a delegate credential service provider,  
the program code including instructions which when executed cause ~~encoded with data related to~~  
~~a delegate credential service provider, the data, when accessed, causing:~~

receiving a service request;

determining the service type based on the service request;

determining a credential requirement based on the service type of the received service  
request;

registering, if the service type is for subscribing a digital credential service, a user's

credential information based on the determined credential requirement for requested digital credential service;

registering, if the service type is for delegation service, a delegation between a delegator and a delegate, the delegation including delegation terms;

changing, if the service type is for updating an existing delegation, the terms of an existing delegation; and

providing, if the service request is a credential information request from a relying party for digital credential information required for a service requested by a delegate, required credential information.

28. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 27, wherein said updating a delegation includes ~~comprises~~:

receiving, from a user, revised delegation terms; and  
updating the terms of the existing delegation using the revised delegation terms.

29. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 27, wherein said providing delegate credential information includes ~~comprises~~:

retrieving the required delegated credential; and  
sending the retrieved credential information to the relying party.

30. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 29, ~~the data, when accessed,~~  
~~further causing~~ including program code having instructions which when executed, further cause:

determining, prior to the retrieving, a delegation between the delegate, who requests the service from the relying party, and a delegator, wherein the digital credential information of the delegator corresponds to the credential information required for the service requested by the delegate.